THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Earlier the bridge estimates were being arrived at, on per meter cost basis, taken over from the latest completed bridges in the similar situations. The standard schedule of rates has since been issued in April 2001. With the result, the preparation of cost estimates for bridges is now being done on item-rate basis.

(d) The following steps have been taken for time bound construction of bridges:—

(i) Deeper attention to site selection and sub-soil investigations.

(ii) Fixing of realistic time period for completion of work by keeping in view the climatic/working conditions remoteness of the site.

(iii) Closer monitoring of works.

(iv) On job training of Officers and subordinates.

(v) Gradually switching over from lumpsum to item rate contracts.

(vi) Introducing Computer Aided Design of bridges.

Pak intrusion through Siliguri corridor

†1092. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Siliguri corridor has helped Pak intruders substantially;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any step to check the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Siliguri corridor is vulnerable from the security point of view

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

due to its close proximity to Indo-Nepal and the Indo-Bangladesh borders. The possibility of ISI backed groups both in Nepal and Bangladesh using the Siliguri corridor for illegal activities cannot be ruled out. The Government has adopted a well coordinated and multipronged approach to check illegal cross border activities which includes strengthening the border management, gearing up of intelligence machinery, well coordinated intelligence based action against ISI agents and militants sponsored by them, setting up outposts of Security Forces and modernisation and upgradation of Police and security forces with advanced sophisticated weapons etc.

Arrest made for funding Lashkar-e-Toiba

1093. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some persons have been arrested by Mumbai Police for giving Rs. 28 lacs to Lashkar-e-Toiba, a terrorist organisation;

(b) what action Government have taken so far against these persons; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The information is being obtained from the Government of Maharashtra and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Bangladeshis in voters list in Delhi

1094. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bangladeshi intruders have registered their names in voters list of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government is going to take to delete such names before the election?